



## BEARDED IRIS FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE

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Bearded iris, *Iris germanica*, is a hardy, long-lived perennial that require a minimum of maintenance. The flowers have six petals; three upright petals (called standards) and three hanging petals (called falls). A fuzzy line or beard runs down the middle of each fall. Flowers come in many colors including blue, pink, purple, reddish, white, yellow, and bi-colors. Most bearded iris flower in the spring (April to June depending on cultivar), but some of the new cultivars reflower in the summer and fall. The second flower display is not as showy as the spring display but last into the fall. Many re-blooming iris are fragrant.

Bearded irises are classified into several types: miniature dwarf (height 8 inch or less, 1 to 2 inch diameter flowers), standard dwarf (height 8 to 15 inches), intermediate (height 16 to 27 inches), miniature tall (height 16 to 25 inches, small flowers), border (height 16 to 27 inches), and tall (height 28 to 38 inches). The shorter iris flower first, followed by the intermediate, and then the taller irises.

### Cultivars

There are thousands of bearded iris cultivars to choose from. Some of the best performing cultivars are listed below.

### Spring-flowering cultivars

Miniature dwarf iris	Bantam (ruffled deep red-purple), Scribe (white with blue edging), Zipper (golden yellow with blue beards)
Standard dwarf iris	Bay Ruffles (ruffled light blue), Software (pinkish cream edged in apricot), Starlight Waltz (ruffled cream), Violet Lulu (soft violet), Watercolor (yellow standards with brown falls)
Intermediate iris	Baby Blue Marine (light blue), Brighten Up (orange with coral beards), Piece of Cake (pink with orchid markings), Red Zinger (deep red)
Miniature tall iris	Chickee (ruffled deep yellow), Disco Jewel (reddish-brown with violet), Loreley (yellow and violet) New Wave (clear white), Rosemary's Dream (white and orchid)
Border iris	Just Jennifer (white), Pink Bubbles (pink), Predictions (pink standards with falls), Tulare (yellow)
Tall iris	Beverly Sills (pink), Crystal Glitters (cream and peach), Darkside (purple), Fringe Benefits (orange), Lullaby of Spring (yellow and lavender), Silver Fizz (orchid), Spinning Wheel (blue standards), Venus and Mars (violet)

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